

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment strand ~~of treating tissue~~ comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in each of a plurality of treatment strands; and

creating the plurality of treatment strands according to said tissue treatment plan without using pre-fabricated spacers; and wherein at least two of the plurality of treatment strands have a custom distal end spacing between the distal end of each treatment strand and the adjacent treatment seed.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said step of creating the plurality of treatment strands is performed by positioning radioactive seeds in a mold and pouring into the mold a material to mold the radioactive seeds in place.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the pouring step further comprises pouring said material that is ~~poured~~ is bio-absorbable.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the pouring step further comprises pouring said material that is ~~poured~~ is a polymer.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
aligning the created plurality of treatment strands in a template.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein all of the plurality of created treatment strands are the same length.

7. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment seed strand for [[of]] treating tissue comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan ~~specifying~~ specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective said treatment seed strands;

~~second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands by molding said treatment seeds in a material;~~ providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands and

third creating the plurality of treatment seed strands by molding said treatment seeds in a material ~~providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands.~~

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said first accepting step further comprises accepting [[a]] said tissue treatment plan created with the use of a computer program.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said first accepting step further comprises accepting a treatment plan that specifies radioactive seeds and a desired spacing between each pair of the radioactive seeds; and
wherein said ~~second~~ creating step further comprises creating the plurality of treatment seed strands to the specified desired spacing.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:
said ~~second~~ creating step is performed by positioning radioactive seeds in a mold at the desired spacings and pouring in a material to mold with the plurality of radioactive seeds in place in the desired spacings.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein~~[[.]]~~ said pouring step further comprises pouring said material that is ~~poured~~ is bio-absorbable.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein~~[[:]]~~ said pouring step further comprises said material that is ~~poured in~~ is a polymer.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
said first accepting step further comprises using the tissue treatment plan wherein the tissue treatment plan is created using an imaging device.
14. (Currently amended) A therapeutic device comprising:
a plurality of seed strands, each having a length with a distal end;
a plurality of seeds provided along the length of each of the seed strands;
the plurality of seeds being provided at spaced intervals along the length of each of the seed strands without the use of pre-fabricated spacers; and
custom end spacings according to a treatment plan provided between the seed located adjacent to the distal end of each of said seed strands and the distal end of each said seed strand, said custom end spacings created without use of pre-fabricated spacers.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
at least two of said plurality of seed strands have different custom end spacings of different lengths.
17. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment strand, the method of ~~treating tissue~~ comprising the steps of:
accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in the treatment plan and which specifies custom end spacings between an end seed in a strand and the end of the strand;
and

creating a treatment strand according to the plan without the use of pre-fabricated spacers.

18. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient with a plurality of treatment strands wherein each of said plurality of treatment strands has a plurality of spaced seeds and custom end spacings between a distal end seed in the strand and a distal end of the seed strand, the method comprising the steps of:
implanting a first strand at a desired location at a depth; and
implanting the remainder of the plurality of seed strands at a plurality of respective desired locations to the depth of the first strand.

19. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment seed strand, the method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:
first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;
second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material without using pre-fabricated spacers; and
third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands without using pre-fabricated spacers.
~~accepting the plurality of treatment seed strands created from the material, without spacers, and according to the prescription treatment plan for treating a patient.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 ~~wherein~~ further comprising selecting at least two treatment seed strands [[have]] that have custom end spacings of different lengths.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said [[third]] providing step further comprises providing ~~provides~~ different custom distal end spacings for at least two of said plurality of treatment seed strands.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said ~~[[third]]~~ providing step further comprises providing ~~provides~~ different custom distal end spacings for one of said plurality of treatment seed strands.

23. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment seed strand ~~of treating tissue~~ comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;

second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material without using pre-fabricated spacers; and

third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands without the use of pre-fabricated spacers, wherein at least two of said plurality of treatment seed strands have different custom end spacing.

~~accepting the plurality of treatment strands created from the material, without spacers, and according to the prescription treatment plan for treating a patient.~~

24. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment seed strand, the method ~~of treating tissue~~ comprising the steps of:

first accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, said treatment plan specifying a number and spacing of a plurality of treatment seeds for each of a plurality of respective treatment seed strands;

second creating the plurality of treatment seed strands from a material without using pre-fabricated spacers; and

third providing a custom distal end spacing on each of the plurality of treatment seed strands without using pre-fabricated spacers, wherein the custom distal end spacing is determined by the treatment plan, and the custom distal end spacing allows a health care professional to insert each of the plurality of treatment seed strands to a uniform depth in the tissue to be treated

~~accepting the plurality of treatment strands created from the material, without spacers, and according to the prescription treatment plan for treating a patient.~~

25. (Currently amended) A method of treating a patient with a plurality of treatment strands wherein each of said plurality of treatment strands has a plurality of ~~spaced~~ seeds spaced without using pre-fabricated spacers and a custom end spacing between a distal end seed of the treatment strand and a distal end of the treatment strand, said custom end spacing set without using pre-fabricated spacers, the method comprising the steps of:

implanting a first treatment strand at a desired location at a depth; and

implanting the remainder of the plurality of treatment strands at a plurality of respective desired locations to the depth of the first strand, wherein each distal end seed of each of said plurality of treatment strands can be at a different depth.

26. (Currently amended) A prescription method to create a treatment strand, the method of treating tissue comprising the steps of:

accepting a tissue treatment plan for the tissue to be treated, which treatment plan specifies a number and spacing of treatment seeds to be provided in each of a plurality of treatment strands;

creating the plurality of treatment strands according to said tissue treatment plan by positioning treatment seeds in a mold and pouring into the mold a material to mold the treatment seeds in place; and

wherein at least two of the plurality of treatment seeds have a custom distal end spacing between the end of each treatment strand and the adjacent treatment seed.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 26, wherein[[:]] the pouring step further comprises said material ~~that is poured~~ is bio-absorbable.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 wherein[[:]] said pouring step further comprises said material ~~that is poured~~ is a polymer.

29. (Currently amended) A therapeutic device comprising:

a plurality of seed strands, each having a length with a distal end;

a plurality of seeds provided along the length of each of the seeds strands;

the plurality of seeds being provided at spaced intervals along the length of each of the seed strands without the use of pre-fabricated spacers; and

custom end spacings according to a treatment plan provided between the seed located adjacent to the distal end of each of said seed strands and the distal end of each said seed strand, wherein at least two of said plurality of seed strands have different said custom end spacings of different lengths.